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PRESS RELEASE

U.S. Helps Macedonia Modernize Construction Permit Process

The process for receiving permission to start new construction projects in Macedonia is set to become more streamlined with the distribution of a Construction Permitting Package to all Macedonian municipalities by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). USAID is a part of the U.S. Mission in Macedonia.

Increasing efficiency in the permitting process was a multi-step task. USAID, in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the Association of Local Self Governments (ZELS), organized a Permitting Working Group to standardize permitting procedures throughout Macedonia. Once the procedures were standardized, USAID developed software, document templates, and manuals to assist all 84 municipalities in managing the construction permitting process. To assist permit applicants, USAID created posters and flyers explaining each step in the permitting process.

“Along with streamlining the permitting process, the tools provided to local administrations in this package will make the process easier to understand for applicants and will increase transparency,” said William Althaus, Chief of Party for USAID’s Decentralization Project, which organized this permitting initiative. “Transparency in the permitting process helps foster certainty in the minds of investors looking to build in Macedonia.”

After learning about the new tools at an unveiling ceremony in Skopje, representatives from all 84 municipalities received a copy of the Construction Permitting Package.

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$450 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 20 projects worth \$30 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia’s transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>